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BALI & BEYOND

MARCH 2011
VOLUME 12 NO. 120

JEWELS FROM THE SEA

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Penyabangan to see the
cultivation and harvests
in the northern waters

A TOUR OF CHARMS

Glimpses of Imogiri's
allure; witnessed on a
visit to the Bantul region
in Central Java

SHOTS...

FROM BALI: TRADITIONAL BEAUTY

COMPLIMENTARY

ISSN 0216-4590



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AND THEN WE MARCH FORWARD

'Om Swastiastu...'

Welcome to Bali and welcome to 2011's March edition of *Bali & Beyond*.

Once again, it's another New Year celebration with the Nyepi Day of Silence marking the Çaka New Year 1933 which comes around this Saturday, March 5 with what is referred to as a New Year celebrated in a totally different way - the holy Day of Nyepi is a solemn day of silence, when the whole island literally shuts itself down - followers do not drink, light fire, be entertained, and do not travel out of their residences.

Celebrations are contrast and lively on the New Year Eve on Friday, March 4, with the typical parades of papier-mâché demonic effigies, called ogoh-ogoh, paraded through the streets with bamboo torches by youths in virtually all parts of the island, from villages to main town streets. The island also blackouts all its TV and radio broadcasts for 24 Hours on March 5, the island's main air and seaports are closed and the evening is a total darkness - a sign of respect for the beliefs of the Balinese people during the 24 hours of absolute silence.

The paraded *ogoh-ogoh* are customarily burnt to ashes shortly after the celebrations before Nyepi, yet some may still be spared and can be witnessed parked on display along the roadsides throughout the month.

In this edition, flip to our new *Folio* pages (that debuted in January 2011 edition, with a selection of photographic snapshots depicting the beauty of Bali). This month features a collection of photography from various photographers who participated in the recent largest photography event in Bali. The event took place at the Denpasar Art Center from January 29 to 30. *Bali & Beyond* is proud to be among the supporting sponsors for the event.

And thanks go out to the photographers as well as the BPFI committee who generously shares their snapshots in this edition's Foto Folio pages, so that we can also show you, our readers, the "Traditional Beauty of Bali" through the eyes of the photographer.

Craft & Culture this month features a story of one of Bali's greatest kingdoms. Age-old artifacts in the forms of ceramics, terracotta and ancient Chinese coins have all shown that the northern Balinese societies have indeed made contact beyond its boundaries long since the Gregorian year of grace.

Remnants of the 'Dutch harbor' are still visible today in Buleleng. This location is easily found featuring a unique bridge, with the pagoda of the 19th century-built Ling Gwan Kiong which claims to be the oldest Chinese temple in Bali, in sight. Also visible are a few remaining Dutch buildings. Rows of edifices still boast typical colonial Dutch architectural features, with high ceilings and large windows.

Through *Beyond Bali* we go to Imogiri, a district of the Bantul regency in the southeast corner of Yogyakarta. A neat and fresh ambience lingers in the area which is oftentimes part of the itinerary on village tours, owing to its rich nature and cultural highlights. Here are some of the glimpses of Imogiri's charm that we can witness on a visit to this region in Central Java.

In *Capital Corner*, it's the town of Bandung, a city that is outlined in history books, for once playing host to the Asian-African Conference in 1955.

Enjoy this edition; enjoy your time and travels on the island and beyond - and keep safe!

'Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om...'

The Team

contri**butors**



Fadil Aziz is a travel photographer whose main passion is capturing the archipelago's beauty. View his portfolio at www.alcibbumphotography.com



Novena Assen is our Yogyakarta-based photographer. She joined the team at *Bali & Beyond* a couple of years back for her internship; she shares scenes of Yogyakarta and its environs with us.



Hary Subastian is MIRA Media's senior photographer and his portfolio spans Indonesia's high-end fashion and lifestyle magazines.



Henny Destyarini enjoyed her tenure a while ago with our team as a photographic intern. We'd love to have more of her portfolio... as well as her giggles.

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Cover

Beauty of Bali

Photo by

I Gusti Ngurah Agung

Arya Prabawa

Wardrobe by

G & S Mode

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CRAFT&CULTURE

TALE OF A LION KING

Revisiting the northern and historically significant region of Buleleng, which offers many attractions and sights of interest; home to a harbor where large vessels once anchored and sailed, connecting Bali with other port cities.

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INVITE&INDULGE

BIRTH OF AN ALL-NEW "URBAN LEGIAN"

The 101 Legian has announced the start of its soft opening period this month following a recent Balinese Blessing Ceremony on February 17.



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PHOTO COURTESY THE 101 LEGIAN

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PONDERINGPOINT

VERY ABLE SPA THERAPISTS

A Dutch physiotherapist and several Indonesian colleagues who, after some years working in Flores, found more needed to be done to create opportunities for people with disabilities to help themselves.



PHOTO BY PUTU SUKMANA

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FOTOFOLIO

BALI: TRADITIONAL BEAUTY

This month's *Folio* presents beautiful shots from the largest photography event in Bali that took place at the Denpasar Art Center from January 29 to 30.

PHOTO COURTESY THE BANYAN TREE UNGASAN



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PHOTO BY ALCIBBIUM PHOTOGRAPHY

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CAPITAL CORNER WEST JAVA'S PRIDE

The town of Bandung which also happens to be the capital of the West Java province, is the third largest city in Indonesia after Jakarta and Surabaya. It boasts many sights to see, as well as flavors to try and taste.

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ACTION & ATTRACTION

JEWELS FROM THE SEA
"Beauty is pain," goes the saying. It can also be both expensive and time consuming. For some clues, simply take the trip to this North Bali Pearl Farm in the village of Penyangban and see for yourself.

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BEYOND BALI

IMOIRI, BANTUL:
A TOUR OF CHARMS
Imogiri district of the Bantul regency is from where glimpses of rustic charm can be witnessed on a visit to this region in Central Java.



PHOTO BY HARY SUBASTIAN



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Anantara Seminyak Resort & Spa, Bali
(0361) 737-773; www.anantara.com



BEER N' SKITTLES

Westin Spa at The Westin Resort recently introduced its beer massage treatment, inspired from the ancient Greeks and Egyptians who are considered to have used beer for centuries to soften skin, heal battle wounds and encourage skin cell growth. Beer also contains antioxidants, which have been known to soothe sore muscles and even strengthen bones. The beer massage combines a "beer sprinkle", natural oil massage and an overall experience provided by skilled therapists. The beer provides a soothing aroma as well as a cooling sensation - an alternative to Aloe Vera. The beer used is of the alcohol-free type, ensuring a safe treatment for all types of skin. A 60-minute session is offered at Rp. 650,000 and a 90-minute session for Rp. 950,000. The 80-minute Beer Cocoon includes a replenishing Beer Massage, a wrap and a beer cocktail, priced at Rp. 1 million.

The Westin Resort, Nusa Dua, (0361) 771-906; www.westin.com/bali



GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS

Nikko Bali Resort and Spa recently received its prestigious "Eco Hotel" certification. Throughout 2010, Nikko Bali Resort and Spa has invested in many environmental programs, new facilities and policies, as well as creating a campaign called "Nikko Bali Goes Green". Two turtle releases were done from nests found on the beach of the resort, continuous cleaning campaigns on the beach and surrounding area involved the local community; a local organization and internal campaigns to its associates to preserve energy and minimizing waste. The resort also recently created a unique twist to the regular holiday hampers by creating an environmentally friendly gift for its partners using biodegradable materials and organic products. In 2010 it also received the ASEAN Green Hotel Standard award for the second time.

Nikko Bali Resort and Spa, Nusa Dua, (0361) 773-377
www.nikkobali.com

ON THE FOREST RIM

Royal Kamuela, a claimed '5-star plus' villas and resort property managed by Aston International opens at Monkey Forest Ubud this month. It features 12 luxury pool villas in an integrated resort setting with a full service spa, private butlers for each villa and an eclectic café-restaurant that overlooks a creek running through the resort's tropical gardens. Royal Kamuela at Monkey Forest sits in the midst of Ubud's main attractions, just a few hundred meters from the entrance to the Monkey Forest and is within walking distance to many attractive restaurants, art galleries and boutiques, making it an ideal location from which to enjoy Ubud's many offerings.

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KINGDOM'S WELCOME

Ayodya Resort Bali introduces Hiroki Mimaki, a newcomer to its white jacket brigade who has recently been appointed as the Resort's Executive Sous Chef. Having lived in Indonesia for nearly 15 years and worked for some of Bali and Jakarta's most prestigious resorts, Chef Mimaki is skilled in a full range of Western and Asian cuisines. He will also be offering an authentic Japanese culinary experience at the resort's Genji Japanese restaurant, and is proud to present the very best of Bali's gastronomic hospitality to guests at Ayodya Resort Bali. Meanwhile, the Surfer's Corner poolside deli and bar has presented a new twist, presenting a special selection of gourmet sandwiches, ranging from Grilled Chicken Teriyaki Sandwich or Tropical Tuna Sandwich and Parma Ham to the XXL Double Cheese Burger. These selections are alongside fresh juices, ice cream and other cold beverages for guests to relish a casual daytime feast beside the pool.

Ayodya Resort Bali, Jl. Pantai Mengiat, Nusa Dua, (0361) 771-102

www.ayodyaresortbali.com



MEDICAL EXPANSION

The Bali International Medical Center (BIMC) Hospital began construction of their new hospital project located in the Bali Tourism Development Corporation (BTDC) area of Nusa Dua in January. Aiming to finish the project by the end of this year, BIMC Hospital Nusa Dua will expand on the current medical services offered by BIMC Hospital, Kuta. Internationally managed, BIMC Hospital has assigned Silver Thomas Hanley (STH), an Australian health architecture firm, to design the new hospital, with the hospital's interior design to be outfitted by Urban Fabric, an award winning interior design company based in Durban, South Africa.

www.bimcbali.com



REJUVENATED...

Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa has recently emerged rejuvenated, now boasting an extensive range of rooms and facilities, retaining its classic touch but reinvigorated with a new look and feel. The second quarter of 2010 saw the re-launch of a completely revamped Maguro Asian Bistro, with the Nusa Dua Spa and sports center following later in the year, as well as a thorough facelift for the property's main pool. Meanwhile, the renovated Royal Residence and Nusa Dua Wing demonstrate a perfect marriage of amenities set in traditional Balinese architecture; these rooms, previously Superior Rooms, have been re-branded as Deluxe Rooms. Guests of the island's travel industry and media were recently invited to a Rejuvenation Party with a tour of the new spa facilities followed by cocktails and dinner at the Keraton Ballroom. **Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa (0361) 771-210, www.nusaduahotel.com**



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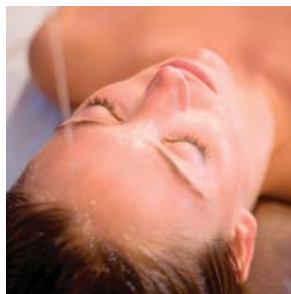


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SOOTHING POURS

The Patra Bali Spa introduces its exclusive Shirodhara treatment. Shirodhara, an ancient way to achieve instant calm and rejuvenation, is a form of Ayurvedic treatment that involves gently pouring liquid over the forehead. This kind of treatment has been used to treat a variety of conditions from eye strain, sinusitis, allergic rhinitis, grey hair, memory loss, to insomnia. Patra Bali Spa combines warm stone massage where smooth warmed rocks glide across your body in long flowing strokes; the heat helps to relax the muscles and has a soothing effect on the blood flow. The complete treatment starts with a full body massage, a stone massage then Shirodhara for two hours at US\$85.

The Patra Bali, Jl. Ir. H. Juanda, Kuta (0361) 751-161
www.patrabali.com

GENTLE WINDS...

The Breezes Bali Resort & Spa has reemerged following recent refurbishments and brandishing its current new name. Previously known as the Contiki, the resort's facilities provide everything that the modern traveler and family expects on their vacation: Internet and cable TV in every room, a kid's club, two bars, a restaurant serving only the best local and western favorites, a spa centre as well as a list of recreational facilities like the pool that is easily accessed from all rooms that runs the length and breadth of the resort. The expansive four-tiered swimming pool with its own beach and swim-up bar is the centerpiece of the resort.

The Breezes Bali Resort & Spa,
Jl. Camplung Tanduk No. 66, Seminyak
(0361) 730,573; www.thebreezesbali.com



FLAVOR OF THE SEA

Ju Ma Na presents sensational two-set course menus from sea urchin, creatively prepared by Chef Mandif Warokka and his team through the whole month of March. Connoisseurs are welcomed to enjoy a selection of sea urchin based creations, from the delicate Sea Urchin Dashi Jelly and Avruga Caviar for appetizer, Lobster and Sea Urchin Bisque with Rouille Cruton, Seared Mantis Prawn with Spinach Pockets, Potato Mousseline, Sea Urchin Sabayon and Five Spices Crusted Sea Bass and Sea Urchin Emulsion, Beans Casseloute for main course, and a mouthwatering 70% Valrhona Chocolate Cake as dessert. Sea urchin set menus are offered starting from Rp. 450,000 (three courses) and Rp. 600,000 (five courses). Sea Urchin is a unique cuisine ingredient, it has a sweet taste and a smooth with buttery texture. For some, sea urchin "has the briny flavor of the sea, and is frequently mentioned as a little cloud to awaken the taste buds."

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TRIO OF BOWLS

Jemme presents its lunch promotion this month – ‘A Trio of Bowls’ for an incredible Rp. 50,000++ - with a choice of one bowl from three; three soup selections, three salad selections and three mains selections – reminding us to the saying, “all good things come in threes.” If you want to make it a long, languid lunch, the wine promotion will also appeal with vast discounts off imported bottles. Also on offer are its dinner menu additions; entrees of ‘Sauteed Crab Claw with Linguine’, ‘Goat Cheese Salad with Rocket & Roast Baby Beets’, ‘Fresh Vietnamese Rice Paper Rolls’ or ‘Lobster Thermidor’ to name but a few. On the mains will be the ‘Cumberland Pie’, a yummy twist on the popular Shepherd’s Pie and the cooling ‘Semi Freddo’ on the sweet side of desserts. **Jemme Dining** is open 7 days a week from 11 am until late.

House of Jenme, Jl. Raya Petitenget No.28, Seminyak
(0361) 733-508; www.jemmebali.com



SPA BRIGHT

The Radiant Hotel, introduces its new facility, The Radiant Spa. The spa is aimed at adding to the options for satisfying its guests is also open for the public. Their main treatment comprises of a modified version of Balinese massage that is combined with elements of Thai massage as well as Shiatsu. Other treatments on offer include body scrub, body massage, shoulder massage, and reflexology. For further guest satisfaction, the spa combines massage with its other range of treatments. Shinta Spa is a 3-hour treatment that comprises of Balinese massage, manicure, pedicure, Jacuzzi, sauna and includes snacks at US\$115++.

The Radiant Hotel and Spa, Jl. Puri Grenceng 46 Tuban
(0361) 752-106; www.theradianthotel.com

FISH FOR COMPLIMENTS

The all-new Melka Spa at the Melka Excelsior in Lovina, North Bali, now offers its outstanding spa health treatments in a comfortable fusion of modern and traditional atmosphere. Well known for its therapeutic dolphins swimming in their pools, Melka now boasts a spa like no other in North Bali. Spacious massage rooms are complemented by the Garra rufa (doctor fish) therapy pools, a large swimming pool with a sundeck to relax after treatments, and a Spa Bar offering fresh juices and refreshing beverages. Offered treatments include full body massage, facial masks, hot stone massage, manicure and pedicure, reflexology and much more.

Melka Excelsior Hotel, Jl. Raya Kalibukbuk, Lovina, North Bali. (0362) 41-552
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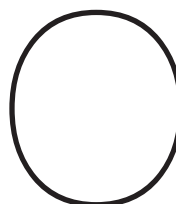
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PHOTOS: HENNY DESTYARINI

TALE OF A LION KING

Revisiting the north, to the historically significant Buleleng, home to a harbor where large vessels once anchored and sailed, connecting Bali with port cities across the archipelago.



nce it was awake. But now it still sleeps, and waiting for another awakening. The town in north Bali, Singaraja, literally means 'lion king', and indeed reminds us of a sleeping lion.

Great cultures usually flourish on riverbanks and coastlines. Indonesia records at least two powerful kingdoms that thrived on the shore. One was the Sriwijaya kingdom in southern Sumatra, which ruled almost all of Indonesia and several other areas in the Southeast Asian region.

The other was the Majapahit kingdom on the northern coast of Java, which ruled most of the archipelago and the seas with its fierce naval fleet.

The natural human instinct to live not far from a water source



PHOTO HENNY DESTYARINI



PHOTOS HARY SUBASTIAN

The seas in the north of Bali are calmer than in the south which border directly with the Indian Ocean.

toward the Lombok Strait, then to Sumbawa, South Sulawesi and Maluku (the Moluccas).

The seas in the north of Bali are calmer than in the south that borders directly with the Indian Ocean. There are many harbors in the north such as Terima Bay, Pemuteran, Singaraja, Sangsit, Kubutambahan, and Julah. A lot more in contrast to the south of the island, where the only historically significant port that comes to light is Sanur.

As a port, the intense interaction with various cultures throughout history has helped to form the open character of the Buleleng people. They are known to be more open-minded and are more welcoming to outsiders.

I Nyoman Singgih Wikarman in his book *Leluhur Orang Bali* or "Ancestors of the Balinese" said that the Northern Bali culture is a heterogeneous one. Although the majority of the Balinese embrace Hinduism, you can also find other religions such as Buddhism and Islam. Hinduism was brought in by Indian religious figures and Javanese merchants, while Buddhism was brought in by Chinese merchants and Islam by Arab and Bugis-Makassar sailors.

At one point Buleleng became quite a busy area before the central government was moved to central Bali, specifically to Pejeng, following the invasion of Bali by the Majapahit kingdom. After successfully subduing the Balinese kingdoms, Majapahit placed its trusted men in control over the government of Bali.

To the central and southern Balinese, the north was an

and the need to socialize and trade amongst other nations has throughout history been rewarded.

In Bali, the greatest kingdom was in Buleleng. Age-old artifacts in the form of ceramics, terracotta and ancient Chinese coins have all shown that the northern Balinese societies have indeed made contact beyond its boundaries since long before the Gregorian year of grace.

Some 9th century epigraphs such as the Prasasti Bebetin from 896 AD describe the contact with foreign merchants. These merchants were referred to as *banyaga* or 'traders' who sailed the seas, and *banigrama* or the 'association of sea traders'.

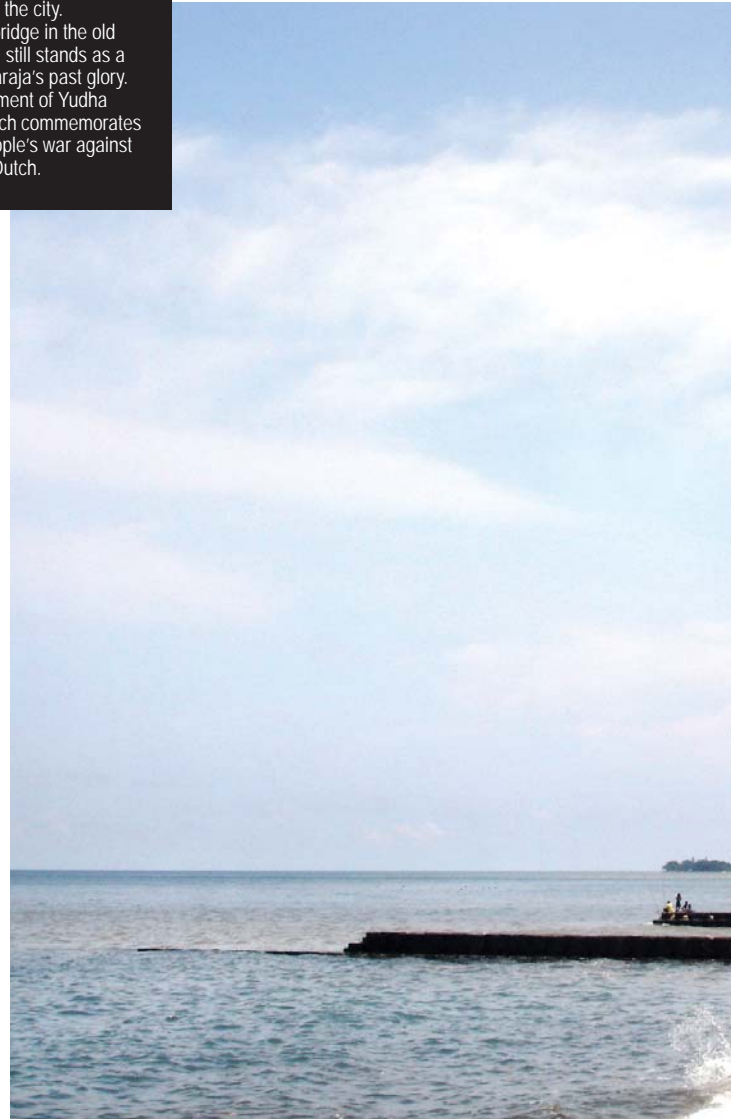
During that era the shipping route through the Indonesian archipelago would mainly be the Malacca Strait, the seas of eastern Sumatra, North Java, North Bali, then turning south



Left: the Singa Ambararaja statue, symbol of Singaraja placed in the heart of the city.

Bottom left: bridge in the old Buleleng port. It still stands as a witness of Singaraja's past glory.

Right: Monument of Yudha Mandalatama which commemorates the Buleleng people's war against the Dutch.



unattractive area and so was ignored. Highlands stretch between the two sides and make traversing a challenge. The highlands were also ideal as resistance areas, because the people there never really surrendered to the rule of the Majapahit.

Eventually North Bali became a place of retreat and where convicts from the south were banished to.

North Bali regained its glory when a king from the Gelgel kingdom was sent home to his motherland in the north. The child became famous by the name Kyai Anglurah Panji Sakti, and established the Buleleng kingdom in 1616 AD.

He had a strong army called the Taruna Goak. Once again this was a heterogeneous group formed by Balinese, Bugis, Chinese and deserters from the Dutch army. Buleleng started to expand together with the small surrounding kingdoms such as Blambangan in East Java and other kingdoms in Bali. Defeated soldiers were salvaged and fused into the Taruna Goak.

Panji Sakti built a large and magnificent palace that he called

Singaraja. It is said that this was the forbearer of Singaraja's name, as the King was identified with the powerful and strong lion.

The name Panji Sakti is still legendary today. Its greatness has become the pride and inspiration of the Buleleng community. Unfortunately after his death disunity arose among his royal offspring, leading to its being subdued by the Karangasem dynasty.

But the tale of Buleleng's glory continued. The area grew and the harbors remained busy. Many people came to trade including The Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie or VOC), a trade company owned by the Dutch government.

Buleleng seemed like a very promising area to the Dutch. They embarked on trade, from slaves to opium, with the local kingdom. In 1848 the Dutch expanded their control over most of Indonesia, including Buleleng. The Kingdom of Buleleng fell to the Netherlands after a series of fierce battles and the last showdown



was in the village of Jagaraga. The incident was later to be known as the 'fight to the last drop of blood in Jagaraga' or *Puputan Jagaraga*.

In the hands of the Dutch the port of Buleleng remained a bustling area. The town was then used as a domicile or office of the Resident of Bali-Lombok – a Dutch official under the Governor General who took control of a particular area.

Remnants of the 'Dutch harbor' are still visible today. This location is easily found as it features a unique bridge with a pagoda of the 19th century-built Ling Gwan Kiong, which claims to be the oldest Chinese temple in Bali, in sight. Also visible are a few remaining Dutch buildings. Rows of edifices still boast the typical colonial Dutch architectural features with high ceilings and large windows.

Back then they were administrative offices that saw to the processing of various travel documents as well as ticketing. Unfortunately the buildings are not well taken care of so now



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Right: A corner in the town; once Singaraja was the busiest and biggest city in Bali. **Below:** An old building's worn and torn door, dating back to the 19th century.



appear old and sullied with many hawkers in front. Such irony; on one hand the Buleleng government and the local people hold high the pride of their heritage, but on the other they're not taking care of it as they should be.

In present time at the harbor you can see a monument of a figure pointing seaward. In its left hand is a local traditional weapon of sharpened bamboo with a flag. It seems that this monument of Yudha Mandalatama commemorates the Buleleng people's war against the Dutch.

After the Indonesians proclaimed their independence, Singaraja was still the capital city of Sunda Kecil, with its administrative area covering Bali and Lombok and up to West Timor and the islands around it. The Singaraja harbor still played a significant trading role in the area, and remained Bali's most important harbor.

It connected to other major harbors such as those of Surabaya and Makassar. From there, agricultural crops, goods and livestock were transported to the outside islands and also exported to Singapore.

It was at this same harbor where large vessels anchored and sailed, connecting Bali with port cities such as Surabaya and Makassar; as well as cities of the Lesser Sunda Islands, the likes of Ampenan and Kupang.

In 1930 the Dutch government built the airport in Tuban at the island's south. Buleleng, with its off-putting geographical condition, made the Dutch focus more on the foothills of the south. But

still this did not have a significant effect on the development of Buleleng and its town of Singaraja.

But the blows came in repeatedly; in 1958 the Lesser Sunda Islands were divided into three provinces, namely Bali, West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara. In 1959 the Ngurah Rai Airport changed its status to an international airport and in 1960 moved to Bali's capital to Denpasar. Singaraja's role as the center of government administration and commerce slowly receded.

It's much like a lion that had dozed off after a tiresome battle in the 19th to 20th century. Compared to other regencies, Buleleng has only made average achievements on the economical scene. The agricultural and plantation sectors make up most of its gross regional income. Its geographical features comprised of from coastal areas to highlands lead to its varied produce.

In terms of tourism, Buleleng offers many attractions and sights of interest. But fortunately through all these times, its development is not solely focused on the tourism sector that is susceptible to various trends and security aspects.

Until now there has not been much development and progress occurring in the area. But it is not impossible that one day it will once again emerge as an important commercial city. Indonesians have a very well-known adage that goes, "life is like a wheel, one side of the wheel will sometimes be below, sometimes above". Striving on, the lion may surely rise and roar again. ■

Text and photos by Ni Luh Dian Purniawati



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BIRTH OF AN ALL-NEW “URBAN LEGIAN”

The 101 Legian announces the start of its soft opening period this month, following a recent Balinese Blessing Ceremony on February 17. After expected completion of all major facilities in May, the hotel, shopping and dining options is to be the “New Urban Legian”.



Opposite page: the conceptualized rooftop level. **Top and above:** the reception lounge and lobby. **Above right:** Hotel Manager, Dewi Mas Bloem and General Manager, Kristian Kuntadi.



are expected to be completed. During this period, The 101 Legian officially launches its special "soft opening promotion rates" both in Rupiah and US Dollars to introduce the hotel as the "New Three Stars Premium" brand with a "Smart, Stylish Experience" concept. Guests may already be able to enjoy the range of facilities on offer during this period, which range from a restaurant, upper floor swimming pool, a lobby bar as well as a pool bar. Meanwhile, the Atma Spa and the dine & Music Lounge are expected to be available before the end of the Soft Opening period.

After the completion of all its major facilities in May, The 101 Legian with its options of tenants for both shopping and dining, is touted by the management to be known as the "New Urgan Legian".

Carrying a "Smart, Stylish Experience" credo the three stars premium brand will be a haven for the active and young spirited travelers who wish to be part of "happenings." The brand promises a value for money experience with each signature facility in terms of product, services and a commitment towards saving energy for the sustainable purposes.

The 101 is designed with a modern

The 101 Hotel is the second hotel brand launched by PHM Hospitality in July last year with its first pilot project, The 101 Legian - Bali. PHM Hospitality aims The 101 Hotel to be a pioneering 'chic and trendy' lifestyle brand, suitable for both the business and leisure traveler, offering an "escapade from stressors to the most legendary urban areas of every destination".

The 101 Legian recently announced the start of its soft opening period this

month, with an opening team that consists of pre-opening key management positions and a team of rank and file expected to be complete shortly prior to its opening. The first dry run of the guestrooms and restaurant facilities has started after the recent Balinese Blessing Ceremony on February 17. Extensive training schedules for the Smart Stylish Experience concept continue to be conducted in preparations for the soft opening.

SOFTLY, STEADILY

The soft opening phase is to run through the month of May, where some facilities



The 101 is designed with a modern minimalist approach; a style of living with a blend of modern technology to provide a comfortable setting for both business and leisure travelers.



minimalist approach; a style of living with a blend of modern technology to provide a comfortable setting for both business and leisure travelers. All of the rooms are complemented with bathroom, big LCD screens, VRV air-conditioning, hot water showers and complimentary broadband Wi-Fi internet access.

The room plan follows on the "Smart Stylish Design", introducing room categories namely the 117 101 Superior

rooms, 6 101 Deluxe Balcony rooms, 4 101 Deluxe Pool Access rooms, 5 101 Deluxe Family rooms, and 6 101 Suites.

Its 'smart, stylish' hospitality is reflected in their One Stop Guest Service Centre, designed to simplify guest's communications through one channel. It urges its guests to forget about the hassles, and let The 101 Guest Service Players answer to every needs of their stay. The 101 Brand is conveniently located by



the hub of every “happening” scene within the destination, with an easy access to all major business or tourism highlights.

Its ‘smart living’ concept focuses on quality and commitment towards The World Campaign on Energy saving; The 101 Brand develops a smart VRV air-conditioning system and heat pump technology, which provides an efficient way compared to the common and ordinary air-conditioning installations.

With the commitment to the environment, its guest may still enjoy the quality living experience in their 101 Room. All The 101 properties will be implementing this energy saving approach.

The 101 Brand offers an online booking system to further the value for money experience; which is easily reached through the user-friendly website.

INTRODUCING THE 101 TEAM

As General Manager, Mr. Kristian Kuntadi whom is also the General Manager of The Haven Seminyak and Managing Director of PHM Hospitality, announces the

appointment of Dewi Mas Bloem as Hotel Manager who continued to oversee the Sales & Marketing; brand awareness and marketing communications of both The Haven Seminyak and The 101 Legian.

Along with her pre-opening team, Dewi Mas leads the “Smart Stylish Experience” concepts of The 101 Brand (through Design, Hospitality, Destination, Booking and The 101 Smart Living) for the pilot project. In the Rooms Division, Mr. Garutma Utama has been appointed as Room Manager to oversee the Front Office operations, Housekeeping, Sports and Recreation as well as the Atma Spa at The 101 Legian.

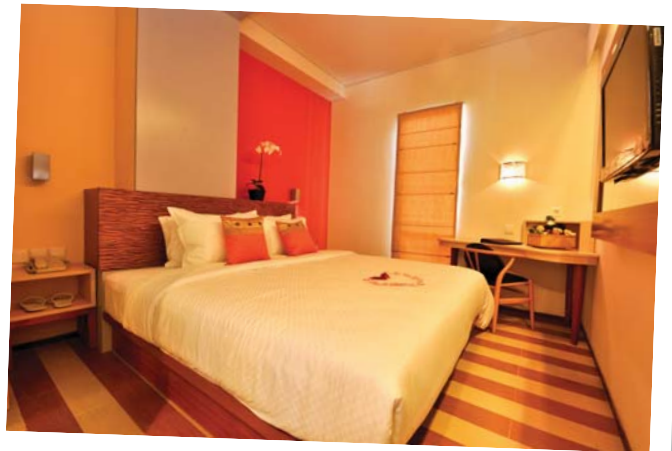
In the Food & Beverages Department, former Planet Hollywood’s Executive Chef, Mr. Yuddy Wirahadikusuma joined The 101 Legian in November last year as Chef and Beverage Manager. Yuddy will bring his International and Indonesian food expertise as well as his extensive F&B Service experiences, from his past tenures at The Westin Surabaya and the Grand Bali Tropic, to enrich the culinary offerings at The 101 Legian.

The 101 Legian has also appointed Mr. Agung Udiyana who is also well-known as among Bali’s most talented bartenders and trainers as its Restaurant & Bar Manager. From his past experiences with Bacardi and several other beverage companies, Agung will also bring his expertise to create the “New Urban Legian” concept for the 101 Legian’s Dine & Music Lounge. Together with Yuddy and the Sales & Marketing team, Agung will be leading the “Smart Stylish Destination” project for The 101 Brand.

In Engineering & Maintenance, Mr. Andry Koentoro is assigned as Chief Engineer, carrying his over 20 year’s expertise in the mechanical, civil, and electricals to deliver the project of The 101 Smart Living, where energy conservation as well maintenance will be the main focus for The 101 Brand. Before joining The 101 Legian, Andry was Senior Chief of Engineering at Bali Mandira.

For Training and Human Resources, Mr. Dharsana Matratanaya is appointed as Personnel Manager especially instrumental in the recruitment the major staffing

The 1O1 Brand is conveniently located by the hub of every “happening” scene within the destination, with an easy access to all major highlights.



for the soft opening this month. Before joining, Dharsana was the man behind the innovative training program at Sanur Beach and several others resorts on the island. Dharsana has delightfully accepted his role as the project leader for the “Smart Stylish Hospitality” of The 1O1 Brand.

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

The Innovative Gastronomic team at The 101 Legian conceives each dining opportunity as an experience of culinary discovery, where guests can taste every chic, healthy and mouthwatering menu. The Restaurant at The 101 Legian will cater up to 150 guests for breakfast, lunch

and dinner. Room Service is available from 10 am to 11 pm for lunch, snacks and dinner in in-room arrangements.

The Dine & Music Lounge will be available after the Soft Opening period, and the first Legian Sunset Bar Cocktail will be offering the ultimate relaxing experience to its surroundings and bring every moment into remarkable events. It is a new destination for chilling out under the stars, boasting an extensive Legian ‘milieu view’, as guests relax to chill out music and cool breezes from the ocean. The ambience at the Dine & Music Lounge creates an atmosphere of congeniality and gives a new color to the Legian Night

Life. It is claimed as going to simply be the best ambience for the Legian crowds. The Dinner & Music Lounge will be open from Sunset to midnight, serving a wide variety of cocktails, international brand beers and premium brands of Liquor and a wine collection with stylish light menus.

So, on your next stroll along Legian, checkout this new site with all its ‘smart and stylish’ offerings, and experience the first and newest in PHM Hospitality’s upcoming projects. ■

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Left: Two of the Ayo Mandiri Foundation staff members, one blind man and one deaf woman, received a Warm Stone Massage Course at Bali BISA to increase their skills. **Above:** A spa in Labuanbajo. **Below:** Founder Mrs. Rosalien Rutten with husband recently at Bali BISA.

'VERY ABLE' SPA THERAPISTS

A physiotherapist and several Indonesian colleagues who, after some years working in Flores, found more needed to be done to create opportunities for people with disabilities to help themselves.



Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world with around 230 million people. It is an incredibly diverse country with at least three hundred distinct ethnic groups. It is the largest economy in South East Asia today, and despite being severely hit by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, its economy continues to grow. The benefits of this development are not evenly felt, however, and almost 1 in 5 Indonesians live in poverty. The region of Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) in the east of the country, including the islands of Flores, Sumba, West Timor, is one of Indonesia's poorest regions.

Throughout Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), communities are working with government and non-government organizations to improve their livelihoods in different ways. There are positive examples of change happening all over the region. It is important that these positive changes are shared across the community. Sadly, for many social and cultural reasons people with disabilities are very often discriminated against and marginalized within their own communities; as the rest of the community move forward out of poverty, they are at risk of being excluded systematically from the opportunities development can bring.

Seen as a burden on their families and not able to contribute anything of value to community or family life, they are often denied education and training, and therefore access to employment. They are frequently physically and emotionally abused. Families who do want help are rarely able to find it as government infrastructure for people with disabilities is almost non-existent - there are very few facilities for children with physical disabilities to attend school, for example, or for adults with learning disabilities to access vocational training courses and employment. An added difficulty is that Flores remains a predominantly rural island. Many people still live in remote villages that do not have regular public transport access, or indeed are only accessible by foot at some times of the year. This means it is difficult to access the few services that are available.

The Ayo Mandiri Foundation (Yayasan Ayo Mandiri in Indonesian) is a non-profit foundation that was set up to address some of the issues faced by people with disabilities in the district of West Flores, in NTT. It was founded by Rosalien Rutten, a Dutch physiotherapist, and several Indonesian colleagues who, after some years working in Flores, decided more needed to be done to create opportunities for people with disabilities to help themselves.

The Foundation specializes in the training of people with disabilities to become professional massage therapists at a massage center that provides services to the local population and tourists. The Foundation's Massage Training Centre in the regional town of Labuanbajo provides training, and afterwards employment (with full salary) for people with disabilities. Through this work the Foundation hopes to reduce the stigma attached to disability in the local population and to raise awareness that people with disabilities can and should play an integral and positive role in society.

The center opened in July 2007 and has been a huge success. There are currently 6 fully-qualified massage therapists at the center, who are blind or partially sighted, deaf or hearing impaired. Four of these took part in the original massage training in 2007 and are now Senior Masseurs and trainers themselves, and are qualified to train others. By working independently in an inspiring team, the junior and senior massage therapists positively influence the awareness of the local population of Labuanbajo about the skills and rights of people with disabilities. Through providing training to other people with disabilities, their self-esteem increases and they feel that they can support others on the road to independence. Yayasan Ayo Mandiri means, "come on, let's be independent!"

Yayasan Ayo Mandiri focuses on capacity building and increasing independence for its staff members with a disability. In 2009, one of its staff members joined a Management Training course at Bali Bisa in Sanur. Bali BISA (Bali International Spa Accreditation), an Accredited World Class Spa Therapy Training School initiated by internationally qualified City & Guilds in Hairdressing and Beauty and C.I.B.T.A.C., Penny Ellis, focuses on Spa Massage and Aesthetics education from the novice to practicing Spa therapist and an entry into Spa Management, Spa Consultant, and Spa Trainer.

Recently two of the Ayo Mandiri Foundation staff members, one blind man and one deaf woman, received a Warm Stone Massage Course at Bali BISA to increase their skills.

For further information on the Ayo Mandiri Foundation in Labuan Bajo, Flores, contact Mrs Rosalien Rutten via email: yayasanayomandiri@gmail.com

For further information on the Accredited World Class Spa Therapy Training School, the Bali International Spa Accreditation (Bali BISA), contact Ms Penny Ellis or their helpful staff at info@balibisa.com. ■

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BALI: TRADITIONAL BEAUTY

The largest photography event in Bali took place at the Denpasar Art Center from January 29 to 30. The social mission-stemmed event was initiated by a community of photographers, the Bali Photographers for Indonesia (BPFI).

Here we present the beautiful winning selections from this event.

Bali Photographers For Indonesia, bpfi@visualbali.com



This third event was held over a short of two days; officiated by the Mayor of Denpasar, Mr. IB Rai Dharmawijaya Mantra, and displayed photographic works of 160 photographers.

Left, Andi Sucirta captures the serenity of the iconic Beratan Lake with its Ulun Danu Temple, as a lake fisherman slowly paddles his wooden outrigger canoe in the early sunrise.



Photos displayed featured images of natural beauty, culture, and Balinese as human subjects. Participants of the exhibition came from various walks of life and from amateurs to professional photographers.

Here, Bagus Jagra Wibawa focuses on the profile of a beautiful Balinese girl in a colorful procession.

The first day featured a photography workshop with the island's best photographers. In the first session, the workshop was presented by Nyoman Bayu Yudianala with the theme of "Travel Photography". Here, Wisnu Adinata has captured a scene in the iconic Kecak fire dance, with singer/dancers in the foreground and a crowd of spectators in the background.



The largest photography event in Bali took place at the Denpasar Art Center from January 29 to 30. The event was initiated by a community of photographers, the Bali Photographers for Indonesia (BPFI), which was instigated by Agus Putu Pranayoga. Agus takes a dramatic snapshot of the Hanuman character from the Ramayana Ballet and Kecak fire dance, as flames leap to the side of the frame after being kicked by the character.



Workshops featured a model hunting session and competition. The theme brought up by the BPFI was "Bali: Traditional Beauty". The photo hunting was participated by an unexpected 150 photographers. Among the winners was Ajus, with his artistic shot of a modernized kebaya at right.





The model hunting session and competition event was supported by Astra Motor, Sinar Photo, Oktagon, Oktarent, Crumpler, Black Rapid, National Geographic, Manfrotto, Mata Dewa 66, Warna Bali Collection, the Bali Photography Workshop and Bali & Beyond. At right is the winning photo by Arya Prabawa.



The model hunting session and competition had the support of 10 models in modern style presented by G & S Mode, and make-up by artists Dama Suaputra and Agra Kumara. Here, Putu Sukmana captures a beautiful smile from an unusual angle, depicting both the beautiful Balinese girl's smile and attire, as well as Balinese architectural features that enhance the image altogether.



The first day featured a photography workshop with the island's best photographers. The workshop was presented by Nyoman Bayu Yudianala with the theme of "Travel Photography". Bayu going by the name NBY Matahati is a photographer who has spanned his wings in Japan with a photographic career of 7 years there. He now actively travels around Indonesia and throughout Asia as a travel photographer.



Participants of the exhibition came from various walks of life and from amateurs to professional photographers; from high school students to international participants from Australia and France. Here, Jeffe Castan captures the raging powers as natural forces meet in a spectacular battle from one of the most recent volcanic eruptions in the Indonesian Archipelago, aptly nicknamed "the Ring of Fire".



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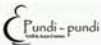
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JEWELS FROM THE SEA

“Beauty is pain,” goes the saying. It can also be both expensive and time consuming. For some clues, simply take a trip to this North Bali Pearl Farm in the village of Penyabangan and see for yourself.





Atlas South Sea Pearls have been farming quality pearls in Indonesia since 1992, and now Atlas is well-known as a leading producer and distributor throughout the island. The farm is open to the public, mainly for those who are curious about finding out how pearls are cultivated and harvested.

Photo courtesy
Atlas South Sea Pearls



Penyabangan is a small village in the Grokgak district of the Buleleng regency. This district is located on the western border of Buleleng and has some famous spots in its vicinity such as the West Bali National Park, the coral reef conservation site at Pemuteran, and this pearl farm that cultivates and harvests pearls in Penyabangan.

There are at least two routes you can use to reach Penyabangan from Denpasar or Kuta. First, you can pass through Bedugul and scenic Beratan Lake. After navigating the hilly and winding roads you will arrive in the neighborhood of Singaraja, the capital of Buleleng. Then you turn left going westward and journey on for about 30 kilometers.

The second route is through the verdant village of Pupuan in Tabanan, which is known for its scenic rice terraces. The road here also traverses hilly terrain because of the highlands that lie between

the north and south of Bali. After a while you will arrive in Seririt, the second commercial city after Singaraja. From Seririt to Penyabangan is approximately 10 kilometers going west.

There you will encounter the site of the Atlas Pearl farm. There is a big sign to the right of the entrance and you have to drive on a narrow unpaved trail. Through this, and you are offered a view of the plantation all around. Soon after you will see the coastline and the calm sea of north Bali. Straight ahead is a dive center, and the farm is just beside it.

Atlas South Sea Pearl's have been farming quality pearls in Indonesia since 1992, and now Atlas is well known as a producer and distributor of throughout the island. The farm is open to the public, mainly for those who are curious about finding out how pearls are cultivated. What's more, it is free of charge.

From the shore you can see a lot of black ball buoys floating on the waves and some pontoons. In the upper floor of the

office you can see the jewelry displayed. They are all awesome, shining, and luxurious in their various forms and colors. There are items in combinations of pearls, mother-of-pearl, gold, and silver.

To get to know how the shells grow and how pearls come to be, you must embark on a brief sea trip. So we started off from a small jetty located in front of the Atlas Pearl office. The boat driver gave us life jackets and asked us to board on the boat – a boat with a simple design, wide bodied, without any outriggers, roof or even seats! The boat driver told us that it's mostly for work. Now, let us slip into the worker's shoes. Literally.

Engine started we went out to sea, avoiding the ropes that hold the black buoys together and any sort of entanglement in the process. On the day of our journey the sky was rather cloudy and we just had thunderstorms the preceding day, so it was still rather gusty and the sea was a little bit wavier than it would normally be.



PHOTO COURTESY ATLAS



All the processes are done by the Atlas workers themselves. They farm the *Pinctada maxima* pearls, and the process starts by the grading up of the shells.

Some nets hung from the ropes and each contained around 150 baby shells stuck onto them. The pearl farmers refer to this as a long line system. Each long line has 200 nets and 500 long lines. Now do the math – how many pearls could be harvested?

Unfortunately those figures aren't really guaranteed, as not all shells can successfully produce pearls. Some of them die due to natural causes, even though they are well taken care of and are checked daily. This is what the divers and other team members actually do.

Once in a fortnight the nets are pulled and cleaned using high pressure nozzles. The team on the first pontoon checks them, separating the dead shells and counting how many are still alive and well. This becomes our first destination, the

hatchery, a small pontoon with a few team members concentrating on their jobs.

Next we move to the second pontoon, which is bigger and has more staff. It resembles a simple house with a roof and walls surrounding it, and we decided to move in there to have a more detailed look on what was going on inside. There were around 10 people, men and women, cleaning the shells and making sure they all grow well and have enough food, without parasites or defects.

The shells grow in their nets from a size of 2 mm until 10 cm in approximately 14 months. During this time the divers and other workers on the pontoon care for them intensively.

The rocky waves during our boat trip made us a bit dizzy and queasy, so it was indeed amazing to see all the workers

doing their jobs and not really affected by the weather. We heard there was no real special requirement for the job besides not being easily seasick! Only bigger waves can make a worker seasick, but that rarely happens.

We couldn't continue our trip to the third pontoon because of the weather, for the boat driver said that the waves might become bigger in another hour or two. So we decided to learn about the rest of the farming phases back on shore, in the office.

The staff explained that all the processes are done by the Atlas workers themselves. They farm the *Pinctada maxima* pearls, and the process starts by the grading up of the shells. They usually breed from September to April. First, they check out the sex because shells are hermaphroditic, which can easily

The jewelry pieces are all awesome, shining, and luxurious in their various forms and colors. There are items in combinations of pearls, mother-of-pearl, gold, and silver.



PHOTOS BY HARY SUBASTIAN

change their sexes. When the grading is successful, they will produce eggs and soon change to larva then baby shells. All of this happens in the laboratory. Finally, the baby shells will then be moved to the sea, clinging onto the nets.

After from 18 months to 2 years, the shells are ready for a 'surgical operation'. The size requirements are around 12 cm and they must be healthy. As do humans before going under the knife, they also require a fasting period of 24 hours before the operation.

When they become hungry, their shells automatically open and the staff puts in a booster so that it cannot shut again. Some shells with the best quality of mother-of-pearl are chosen to be donors of the pearl's thin muscle tissue called saibo. In the end, the pearl will grow and follow the color features of the donor.

During the operation the shell would be clipped, for easier embedment of the nucleus and saibo into the shell. It must be excruciating for the shell. Just imagine, a large foreign object entering your body. Even a tiny splinter would cause extreme discomfort. But the pain suffered by these shells is just the beginning of a form of beauty. A beautiful shining pearl will appear in time.

After the operation the shells are then placed back in the sea for recovery and to continue growing. During the recovery the saibo will nurture and cover the nucleus with the nacre (mother of pearl). Later the saibo will develop a pearl bag that is similar in form to the new organ in the shell.

But this operation might not be successful. Six months after operation they will be checked via x-ray to see how the pearl is growing inside. Shells with no pearls

will end up on someone's dining table.

It takes 4 years from grading a shell until the pearl is harvested. The pearl sizes range from 9 to 16 mm. After the first pearl is harvested, the shell can go under the knife a second time. On the second harvest, it can produce even a bigger sized pearl.

This was an interesting trip, which broadens the insight of any curious visitor on why pearls can be so expensive, and what is the only gemstone that comes from a living creature. Tours in Penyabangan take from 2 to 3 hours, and from Penyabangan you can also visit other interesting destinations on the northern coast. If you want to stay overnight, you can find a variety of options in Lovina, about an hours drive to the east; you can also check out the Melka Exersior, a 3-star hotel that boasts dolphins in their pools. For lunch or simply hanging out during sunset, the Ranggon Sunset Pantai Penimbangan can be a delightful choice.

Text and photos

by Ni Luh Dian Purniawati

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IMOIRI, BANTUL: A TOUR OF CHARMS

A neat and fresh ambience lingers in this area which is oftentimes a major part of the itinerary on village tours, owing to its rich features.

Imogiri district of the Bantul regency is located in the southeast corner of the Yogyakarta province. A neat and fresh ambience lingers in the area which is oftentimes part of the itinerary on village tours, owing to its rich nature and cultural highlights. Here are some of the glimpses of Imogiri's charm that we can witness on a visit to this region in Central Java.

The charm lies in the socio-cultural aspects that live on since age old times and have since kept up with the people's traditions. One of the traditions that are deep in values and philosophy can be found through a unique village-celebrated ceremony. Hundreds

of people move slowly uphill on the way to Kedung Miri Village, in Sriharjo. Javanese traditional attire dominates the scene don by hundreds of people of all generations. They are on their way to a Javanese village purification ceremony referred to as the Merti Dusun, which is held once in every five years, after the harvest period is over. This tradition is a communal feast, celebrated by the villagers in a form of gratitude to the divine powers for the prosperous environment and fruitful endowments of nature, as well as to also preserve the artistic and cultural values.

The Merti Dusun is similar to the Grebeg Sekaten ceremony

The Merti Dusun is similar to the Grebeg Sekaten ceremony which is held every year to celebrate the Maulud Nabi or the birthday commemoration of the prophet Muhammad, which Yogyakarta happened to celebrate last month on February 15.

The gunungan, towering full of fruits and items of harvest, are believed to channel the blessings and will bring prosperity.



which is held every year to celebrate the Maulud Nabi or the birthday commemoration of the prophet Muhammad, which Yogyakarta happened to celebrate last month on February 15. The Merti Dusun in the form of Sekaten is signified by a Grebeg Merti, with up to two-meter high gunungan offerings being blessed and displayed. After the blessings, the gunungan, with its towering form full of fruits and items of harvest, are prepared for the people to share as they are believed to channel the blessings and will bring them prosperity.

There are usually two of the gunungan, and in each we may witness a sample of the plentiful harvests of the Kedung Miri people which mostly comprise of tuberous plants, coconuts, fruits, vegetables, etc. The Merti Dusun processions start with the two gunungan entering the yard in the house of the village head. The march embarks from both sides of the village. First, the bregada or line of people walk from the western side of the village, and another starts from other side of the Wunut village. Before long, the two colorful processions will meet in center point yard of the village head's house. Hundreds of people join together in the grand procession. The scene will come to an end, when the two

gunungan have been raised in the stage at the front of the yard, and people scramble in their masses to get their share of the 'blessings'. The philosophy behind the Merti Dusun ceremony is consciousness of nature's gifts and always bearing in heart and mind a sense of gratitude for life's blessings.

Other highlights of Imogiri village include traditional artwork, such as the world-renowned batik art forms. Inheritance is a way of preserving art and culture of the Imogiri people. In the beginning, batik workers in Imogiri were mainly from the Giriloyo village and formed part of the main product typical of the Keraton (royal palace) of Yogyakarta. As a batik production central, Imogiri also boasts a batik museum, named "Joglo Cipto Wening" located in the Paseban village.

Only a few people are aware that this museum keeps century-old ancient batiks in its collection which are of high historical value. Ancient batik forms had been used by Pakualam VII and VIII of the Keraton Yogyakarta. The museum has up to 300 different batik forms in many motifs in its collection. These forms were collected from Yogyakarta, Solo and Pekalongan – the three main batik producers in the region. Yogyakarta batik itself is



Other highlights of Imogiri village include traditional artwork, such as the world-renowned batik art forms. A batik museum keeps several ornate garment motifs considered extraordinary or rarely produced nowadays; several of them include the Lereng motif, Sido Mukti, Sido Luhur, and Wahyu Tumurun.



normally considered to be derived from Imogiri along with other famous motifs. Besides presenting the hoard of ancient batik forms in its collection, the museum also features an exhibition room for artworks from various batik industries from Imogiri and Bantul to be displayed. The “Joglo Cipto Wening” itself is a two-century old Joglo house structure, adding to its strong nuance of rustic antiquity, which led it to it achieving second place in ‘best traditional house’ category in Yogyakarta.

The museum keeps several ornate garment motifs considered extraordinary or rarely produced nowadays; several of them include the Lereng motif, Sido Mukti, Sido Luhur, and Wahyu Tumurun. These motifs are not generally produced anymore nowadays, due to the difficulty levels in creating them as well as the rare skills and perseverance required during the making process. The batik museum is open for public every Tuesday to

Sunday from 8 am to 3 pm. Daily activities include batik process demonstrations, batik treatment for beginners and batik items and souvenirs for purchase. One type of original Imogiri batik kept by the museum is the “Kelengan” batik which features unique color combinations of cyan and white which dominate overall complexion. In the past, the natural cyan dye was derived from a kind of grass that grew in Imogiri. During visits to the museum, visitors are able to see batik in the making carried out by several women – a highlight that makes up part of the museum attractions. Visitors also can participate and experience hands on this authentic process of mbatik.

Another exotic side of the Imogiri village tour is to visit the shopping scene at Giriloyo in the village of Wukirsari. This village has many natural views and local craft as its highlights. Another batik form found here is the *batik tulis* or the ‘written batik’.



During the keraton times of yore, housewives would work on their batik chores as their husbands go to work at the Keraton as royal palace servants or abdi dalem. The batik of Wukirsari survived the 2006 earthquake that struck Yogyakarta. The batik is distributed in various areas such as Tamansari, Beringharjo traditional market and the souvenir shopping areas in Yogyakarta. The batik motifs consist of 1600 different types and feature simple characteristics. Several names referring to Yogyakarta batik motifs include flowering plant names, animals, or typical resemblances to traditional weapons and common items, such as Sido Mukti, Sekar Kedhaton, Raju Emas, Anggor Gowok, Parang, Banji, Sido Asih, Keong Renteng, Sido Luhur, Semen Mentul, Sapit Urang, Harjuna Manah, Semen Kuncoro, Sekar Asem, Lung Kangkung, Sekar Keben, Sekar Pala, Grageh Waluh, Wahyu Tumurun, Ratu Ratih, Semen



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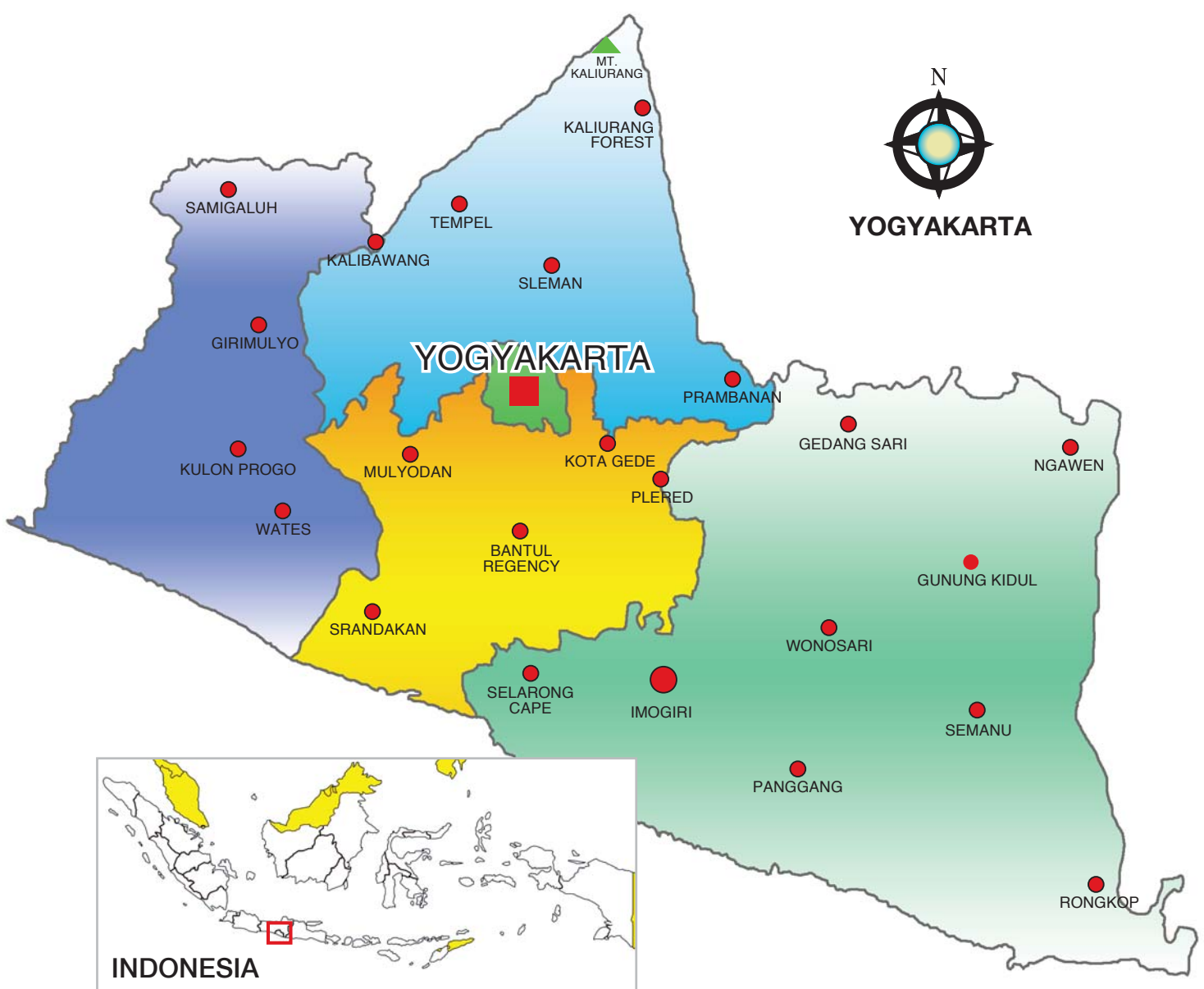
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Roma, Semen Gedhang, Jalu Mampang, etc.

Namesake of the batik industry place, Sido Mukti batik is characterized by the earthen colors or gading, black and white. Each motif has its own philosophy and own meaning. The motifs of Sido Mukti itself imply that if used by brides, they will live prosperous and happy lives. The motifs are an inheritance, therefore the patterns never change, and simply a motif or pattern is special and becomes a characteristic signature on its own. However, batik workers usually only follow a predetermined pattern, making written batik crafts a collective job. The processes are typically carried out by women young and old, with the skills passed on and inherited through generations. If you want to go shopping you can visit Mr. Ahkyar, the owner of the Sido Mukti Group in Wukirsari, with the site located near the Sultan of Mataram grave complex.

A hospitable atmosphere is instantly grasped when we get to taste the traditional drink here. On chilly nights, a cup of wedang uwuh makes for a perfect drink. Wedang uwuh is a special drink typical from Imogiri that is claimed to benefit health and is suitable

for warming the body. Wedang uwuh can be enjoyed around the Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat sultan's grave complex. Various herbal ingredients can be seen, such as leaves, combined together inside the glass. The concoction consists of several spices, including gepuk or burned ginger, cinnamon, clove bark and leaves, etc. All materials are poured over with hot water then left to settle for a while, before sipped away. The locals stand by it that the drink promotes stamina as well as rich in antioxidants. The popularity of this local drink has permeated to the other regions outside Yogyakarta such as to Jakarta and other big cities in Indonesia, as the case of the Javanese herbal drink of Jamu. It is also a favorite souvenir to take back from a trip to Imogiri.

To have a sip and to get to know the real taste of the herbal drink, and to see the highlights that this village has to offer, you can contact a local guide in Yogyakarta, **Mr. Mardiyanto 'Welud'**, via email: sculp_turn@yahoo.com or mobile phone

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Text by Rina Kusumastuti

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WEST JAVA'S PRIDE

The town of Bandung which also happens to be the capital of the West Java province, is located some 140 kilometers to the southeast of Jakarta, and is the third largest city in Indonesia after Jakarta and Surabaya. A city that is outlined in history books; once played host to the Asian-African Conference in 1955, where Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru, stated it as “the capital of Asia and Africa”.



Bandung's monikers range from *Kota Kembang* or "Flower City" to the title of *Parijs van Java* or "the Paris of Java" (the city is also famed for its shopping scenes, where you will find lots of malls and factory outlets scattered throughout the city of which also stretches to its highland regions). In 2007, the British Council made the city its most creative pilot project town in East Asia. Today, it is one of the main destinations for tourism and education.

THE HISTORY

The word "Bandung" is derived from the word *bendungan* or "dam" due to the

Citarum River once being flowed with lava from the Tangkuban Perahu Mountain forming a weir and lagoon. Another version, a legend told by the Bandung elders depicts the name *bandung* being taken from a water vehicle consisted of two boats tied side by side called a *perahu bandung* was used by the then regent, R.A. Wiranatakusumah II, to cruise along the Citarum (primordially "Ci Tarum") River in his search for a suitable new site for the regency's administrations in replace of the old capital in *Dayeuhkolot*.


The city of Bandung started to become a residential area since the times of the Dutch, by its Governor General at the time, Herman Willem Daendels, who issued a declaration letter on September

25, 1810 regarding the development of infrastructures and facilities for the administrative area. Later the event was then regarded as pinpoint of the town's anniversary.

Bandung happens to be the busiest city in West Java, where its inhabitants are dominated by the Sundanese ethnic group, while the Javanese ethnic group form the largest minority compared to other ethnic groups in the city.

BANDUNG'S CLIMATE

Due to its topology, the climate in Bandung is cooler throughout the year than in most other big cities in Indonesia. The rainy season adjusts to that of other areas in Indonesia, namely



After spending your time during the Car Free Day, an interesting next destination is the area called Braga. Braga is the name of a main street in Bandung, with street names generally well-known since the times of the Dutch East Indies.



around November to April. The average temperature is 22.6°C, much cooler compared to other cities such as Jakarta.

THE ATTRACTION

In this city you will find a variety of arts, decorated by cultures of West Java. It can be said to be the closest city to the nation's capital, Jakarta; Bandung becoming the second and also a target destination for Jakartans who want a nearby out-of-Jakarta vacation.

Reachable by a mere 2.5-hour drive, it's no wonder why this city, which offers a variety of leisure highlights, shopping and sightseeing, becomes filled with tourists over the weekends.

CAR FREE DAY

Start your Sunday in Bandung with exercise, culinary travel, shopping, and even watch art performances on Car Free Day. Here, you'll find everything you need for traveling. On each day of the week, the Dago protocol route which is about 1.5 kilometers would be closed to motorized vehicles from 6 until 10 o'clock.

On these days residents spend time in the weekend mornings along this road. Here you would be entertained by street art performances held by the groups of artists who call themselves *Seniman Bangun Pagi*, or "Early Riser Artists", ranging from musical performances, theater, mimes, street photo galleries,

typography displays and others. Along this road you will see crowds walking, biking and rollerblading as a means of fun weekend morning workouts.

BRAGA CAFE AND CRAFT

After spending your time during the Car Free Day, an interesting next destination is the area called Braga. Braga is the name of a main street in Bandung, with street names generally well-known since the times of the Dutch East Indies. Until now these street names and buildings are still with Dutch colonial styles maintained and has become one of the landmarks, if not mascots and tourism objects of the formerly known *Parijs van Java*. Braga



On each day of the week, the Dago protocol route would be closed to motorized vehicles from 6 to 10 am. Residents spend the weekend mornings along this road in various fun activities.

also offers a range of tours ranging from both traditional and modern. One of them is Braga Café and Craft. Supported by a unique interior, the atmosphere of a quiet environment, as well as handcrafted items and curios, Braga Café and Craft offers you a cozy place to relax and chat.

Also, this place is known in the culinary scene with its culinary icon called the Bala-Bala Braga, or which is better known by its generic title of Bakwan Braga. This traditional dish cannot be found elsewhere. Besides its traditional food, Braga Café and Crafts also offer other culinary treats – both traditional and international. For those who like to shop, especially for

handicrafts, Braga Café and Craft is the right place. Here you will find a variety of diverse handicrafts, ranging from metal, wood, fabric, weavings, paper and others. The place serves up as a one-stop and Bandung tour packaged in one.

Many other places of interest span across the city and form up the beauty of Bandung, and it would be very appropriate to make another next trip here or spend a whole weekend (or whole week) in this “flowering city”. ■

Text by Fadil Aziz

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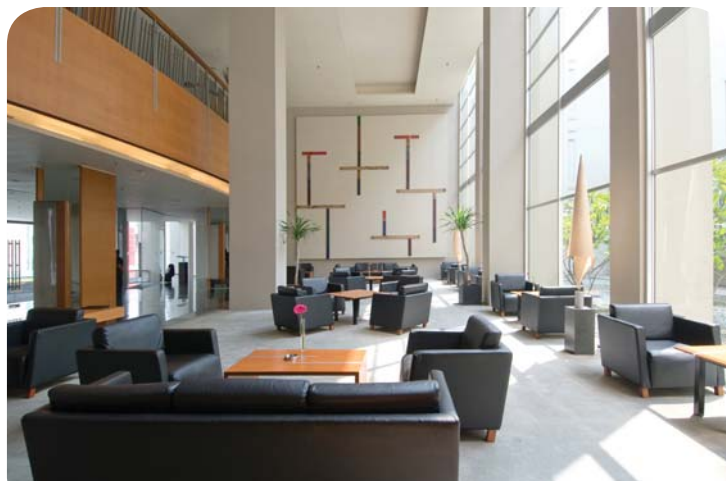
SAVORS FOR SPRING

JW Marriott Hotel Jakarta presents its March highlights, starting with the Joys of Spring at Asuka Japanese Dining, as award-winning Chef Nishiura Osamu presents the mesmerizing Spring Omakase Menu at Asuka through April. Also, Asuka provides a Sake Master to help you choose the beverages you pair with your Omakase selections. The Sake Master recommends Umeshu (plum liqueur) with the firefly squid and Kiku Masamune Taru dry Japanese sake with the branquillo. Meanwhile at Pearl Chinese Restaurant this spring Chef John Chu presents his fabulous crab creations. Everything on the special menu is served all-you-can-eat style for a mere Rp 168,000++ per person.

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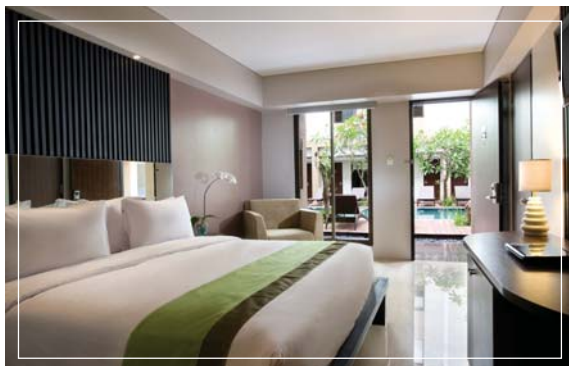
A health conscious Harris Café offers a range of Indonesian, Asian, and International specialties with also healthy juices at our Juice Bar and Pizza & Pasta at Harrissimo.

Free daily sport and leisure activities are available by the pool such as Yoga and our special dances the "Harris Moves". Dino Kid's Club features free fun games for children and H'Spa and Happy Feet Reflexology offers energizing and refreshing body treatments. Harris Resort Kuta is a fun place for everyone!

Hotel Santika Kuta Bali



Jln Raya Kuta 98, Kuta, Bali - Indonesia
Ph: +62 361 764-033, 764-044
Fax: +62 361 764-041
kutabali@santika.com
www.santikakutabali.com



Hotel Santika Kuta is a strategic base from which to explore the island of Bali at leisure. Located in the heart of Kuta's vibrant shopping and dining district, the property is just minutes from the island's celebrated sunset beach. Within easy reach to the airport and other popular sites of interest, Hotel Santika Kuta welcomes travellers from all walks of life with genuine hospitality.

The Superior Room anticipates the needs of today's traveller with a smart decor in earthy tones and modern conveniences to ensure a relaxing experience. It is an exceptionally comfortable base for business or leisure guests during their time on the island of Bali.

Appetites are satisfied at Kafe Serani. This open-plan dining area serves an extensive buffet breakfast and a more substantial menu of Indonesian and Western cuisine as well as light refreshments.

Meet in style with a fully equipped meeting room located just off the lobby, designed to accommodate 50 participants in a classroom set-up, and 35 delegates in a U-shape configuration. Meeting package rates with attractive incentives are available on request.



SET FOR SURABAYA

Discovery Hotels & Resorts recently signed a Management and Operating Agreement with the Commissioner of P.T. Gloria Ramayana Inter Hotel, to provide professional consultation and operational support by managing the LJ Discovery Hotel Surabaya in East Java, Indonesia. This new deluxe five-star hotel due to open in the second quarter of 2011 offers 263 comfortable modern rooms, two bars and three restaurants. The hotel will also have eleven meeting and ballrooms, and leisure facilities including a 1,000 square meter fitness and spa situated adjacent to the outdoor swimming pool. Pictured: Mr. Poul E Bitsch, President Director of Discovery Hotels & Resorts, Mrs. Wiwiek Kawilarang, Commissioner of PT Gloria Ramayana Inter Hotel and Mr. Jeremy M Cooper, General Manager of LJ Discovery Hotel Surabaya and Mrs. Cecilia Sherlina Kawilarang.

www.discovery-hotel.com



UNWIND IN BALANCE

Novotel Yogyakarta introduces its In Balance Spa, a wellbeing facility on its 2nd floor, which provides a tranquil and calming surrounding to welcome spa-goers in Yogyakarta with various treatments and packages. One among the treatments include the Ultimate Body Indulgence that gives guests a combination of traditional oil massage with body scrub and body wrap to revitalize the skin, while its Signature Treatment features the most complete body treatment package. The spa from 8 am to 3 pm daily offers a special 35% discount for certain special treatments and packages. Novotel Yogyakarta's In Balance Spa opens daily from 8 am to 10 pm.

Novotel Yogyakarta Jl. Jend Sudirman no 89, Yogyakarta (0274) 580930; www.novotelyogya.com



HE'S IN FASHION

The Phoenix Hotel Yogyakarta once again supports the nation's fashion scene with the launch of H.O.T Man from fashion designer Tomy Tri Wahyudi in early February. Since its Grand Opening in 2004 The Phoenix Hotel Yogyakarta indeed has been involved in Indonesia's fashion scene, frequently playing host to various photo sessions or fashion shows by several designers; routinely holding a batik and fashion exhibition in its museum lounge and frequently hosting fundraisers with entertainment and fashion auctions from various Yogyakarta designers such as Nita Azhar, Lia Mustafa, Afif Syakur, Ramadhani, Budi Susanto, Ayok Dwipancara and others. H.O.T Man was a fashion show of men's wear. Tomy Tri Wahyudi is a creative fashion designer with a decade under his belt and his show was the first solo men's wear fashion show to be held in Yogyakarta featuring 60 selections from his collection. It was also the launch of his H.O.T Man second line from the House of Tomy for men's wear. www.thephoenixyogya.com

Maxi Hotel & Spa



Jl. Legian 83A, Legian
Tel: (0361) 754-082 Fax: (0361) 750-792
E-mail: info@maxi-hotel.com
Website: www.maxi-hotel.com



The Maxi Hotel & Spa is situated in the heart of Bali's shopping and nightlife district. Centrally located, the property offers an ideal base for visitors wishing to explore Bali while keeping all the island's best shops, bars, restaurants and beaches within easy walking distance.

Hotel facilities and services include restaurant, bar, meeting room, massage and spa, room service, swimming pool with Jacuzzi, children's pool, laundry and dry cleaning service, airport pickup and transfer, snack bar, tour desk, doctor on call, free car park, baby sitter upon request, broadband internet connection, major credit cards accepted, individually controlled air-conditioning, local and IDD telephone, satellite TV, daily mineral water, private bathroom with bathtub and shower, mini bar, personal electronic safe deposit, tea & coffee maker. The balcony overlooking the swimming pool and landscaped tropical garden offers a private area for relaxing.

The hotel is less than 15 minutes from Ngurah Rai International Airport; 20 minutes drive to Denpasar, 30 minutes from Sanur, Nusa Dua and within 45 minutes drive to the artistic centre of Ubud and about 350 meters from Bali's famous Kuta Beach.

Mentari Sanur Hotel



Jl. Hangtuah III No.3, Sanur
Tel: (0361) 283-286, Fax: (0361) 283-017
E-mail: sales@mentarisnur.com
Website: www.mentarisnur.com



The Mentari Sanur Hotel is tucked away down a small side street just off Jalan Hangtuah at the northern end off Sanur, Bali's most enchanted village. Shaded by frangipani trees, this two-storey 28 rooms hotel offers the ideal combination of modern facilities and a charming Balinese atmosphere with family style hospitality and service.

A large luxury private swimming pool is the right place for you to pamper your self and relax in a privacy atmosphere under a warm tropical sun. Tunjung Restaurant offers a combination of continental and traditional Balinese dining, cozy lounge is the area where you can sit down, relax, and bar will serves you varieties of drinks. Free exclusive broadband internet access.

Located in a tranquil coastal village of Sanur make the Mentari Sanur Hotel is situated in an ideal location with immediate access to the main highway and just minutes from many great tourist activities and attraction, 25 minutes drive to the Ngurah Rai International Airport, 20 minutes drive to Kuta Beach, 5 minutes drive to the Sanur shopping area, 10 minutes drive to Denpasar and 30 minutes to Ubud.

The Dreamland Luxury Villas & Spa



Jl. Raya Uluwatu, Br. Bakung Sari,
Ungasan, South Kuta, Bali
Tel. (0361) 708 199; Fax. (0361) 708 168
E-mail: reservation@dreamland-villa.com
sales@dreamland-villa.com
www.dreamland-villa.com



The Dreamland Luxury Villas & Spa is a new destination for those who want to experience the atmosphere of first class service with state of the art facilities. 42 Private Pool Villas are available with different categories; 1 bedroom suite villa, 2 and 3 bedroom family villas to meet every guest's dream.

The Dream Spa is a fantastic hide away spa destination for the mind, body and soul. Featuring 3 Romantic Spa Rooms with double spa bed, shower, Jacuzzi, Sauna and spa locker. From the moment you enter into the resort's lobby you can see the amazing Ocean Views, nice breeze, breathe in the fresh air, you can feel the sensation of the tranquil up hill environment. The Dream Spa is where a heavenly atmosphere invites you to relax, with an assortment of treatments invite you to indulge. Let the sensation of the Dream Spa's atmosphere pamper and comfort you soon.

In the Ungasan village, high on the southernmost peninsula of the island of Bali. Ten minutes to Dreamland beach, from your villa by our free shuttle service.

Space Available

Logo



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AND YET, ANOTHER NEW YEAR...

Çaka New Year 1933 comes around this Saturday, March 5 with what is referred to as a New Year celebrated in a totally different way - the holy Day of Nyepi is a solemn day of silence, when the whole island literally shuts itself down - followers do not drink, light fire, be entertained, and do not travel out of their residences. Celebrations are contrast and lively on the New Year Eve on Friday, March 4, with the typical parades of papier-mâché demonic effigies, called ogoh-ogoh, paraded through the streets with bamboo torches by youths in virtually all parts of the island, from villages to main town streets. The island also blackouts all its TV and radio broadcasts for 24 Hours on March 5, the island's main air and seaports are closed and the evening is a total darkness - a sign of respect for the beliefs of the Balinese people during the 24 hours of absolute silence. The paraded ogoh-ogoh are customarily burnt to ashes shortly after the celebrations before Nyepi, yet some may still be spared and can be witnessed parked on display along the roadsides throughout the month.

LOBBY OF COLORS

Aston at Grand Kuta Hotel and Residence presents a painting exhibition at its lobby in cooperation with Bali Fine Art. The collaboration has resulted in a modified hotel lobby to play host to the painting exhibition for young Balinese painters. The art venture has a mutual benefit for the painters in promoting and exposing their artworks, and to provide a sense of art for guests and also to help beautify the hotel's lobby. The exhibition was opened with paintings from I Ketut Jaya (39) from Karangasem and I Made Somadita (29) from Tabanan. Both of them are painters from Bali and are experienced in many joint or solo exhibitions. Their paintings are inspired by Balinese tradition in color, shape, symbol or religious aspects. The paintings are exhibited at the lobby basement and ground floor of the hotel area and are sold at various price ranges. This exhibition is open 24 hours for the public.

Aston at Grand Kuta Hotel and Residence
Jl. Dewi Sri No.8, Legian, (0361) 300-0888; www.grandkuta.com



GROMS AHEAD!

The 2011 Rip Curl GromSearch season started recently in West Java at the sand bottomed right hand point break of Batu Karas, West Java on February 20, 2011. The second stop on the Rip Curl GromSearch lands the team on the wave rich shores of Kuta in South Lombok on March 20, then over to the premiere surf destination of Lakey Peak in Sumbawa on April 10, and back to Bali and up to the long left-hand point break of Medewi on September 11, before bringing all the winning groms together for the National Final at Kuta Beach on October 8-9. Last year's GromSearch winner Jeren Kiring (pictured) has his passport ready for Down Under this April to take on the world's best junior surfers at Bells Beach. There is no entrance fee for participation in Rip Curl GromSearch events, and all contestants receive a Rip Curl goody bag and Rip Curl T-shirt.

www.ripcurl.com

Bali Jegeg Restaurant



Located at the best hidden paradise in Munduk village, which is famous for their beautiful waterfall in North Bali, Bali Jegeg Restaurant is the only place to make your fantasy become real for having your meals while enjoying the nice view of mountains and ocean.

Surrounded by fresh air, amidst coffee and clove plantations, Bali Jegeg Restaurant is just a few minutes away from Munduk waterfall, so it is a perfect choice for you to have your meals after a trekking down to the waterfall.

Besides being famous for their traditional Balinese coffee, Bali Jegeg Restaurant also serves Western and Indonesian cuisines such as Seafood Kebab, Sandwiches, Pasta, Bakmie, Nasi Goreng and many others at valuable prices.

After enjoying your meals, do not forget to conclude it with a cup of the famous Balinese coffee. For sure it would make your day perfect. Only at Bali Jegeg Restaurant.

For reservations, please dial:
(0362) 700-1634 or (62) 877-62766-199

*Bali Jegeg
Restaurant*

Desa Munduk, Singaraja, North Bali
(+62) 362 700 1634 or
(+62) 877 62766 199
E-mail : balijegeg.restaurant@yahoo.com

Basilico Italian Pavilion & Bar



Basilico Italian Pavilion & Bar is an elegant, yet cozy, Italian restaurant, with indoor and outdoor garden seating. It offers an intimate dining room with great views of the sea, beach and marvelous gardens.

The restaurant serves fresh home-made pasta, pizza and other Italian specialties. Enjoy the relaxing ambience and savor a truly satisfying dining experience.

Located right on the sandy beach of Sanur and surrounded by 7 hectares of tropical garden, discover a perfect culinary experience at Sanur Beach Bali.

Open daily for lunch and dinner from 11.00am – 11.00pm


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Bali

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P.62 361 288011 F.62 361 281 755
E-mail: hsb.fb@aerowisatahotels.com
www.sanurbeachhotelbali.com

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Jalan By-Pass Ngurah Rai No. 888
Simpang Slur, Kuta - Bali
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info@budesa-restaurant.com
budesa-restaurant.com

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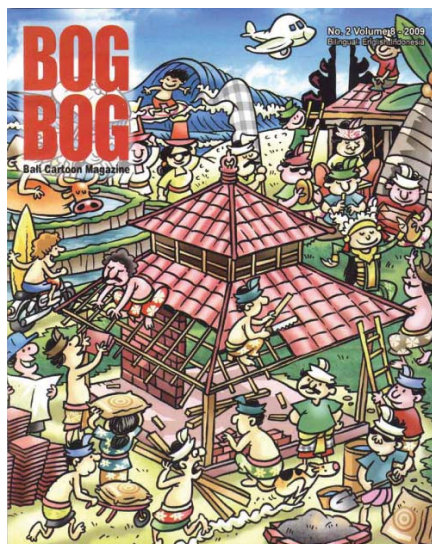
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TOON AROUND

100 Sunset Boutique Hotel presents a cartoon exhibition on their property. The exhibition presents the many covers of Bogbog magazine, the first and only cartoon magazine in Bali. It is a witty approach to Balinese daily life that can be strange, sarcastic, smart or simply humorous. In their own words, "because life is funny and cartoons make it even funnier". Bali Around Cartoon runs through the month of June and all can be enjoyed through the colorful caricatures presented at the 100 Sunset Boutique Hotel, which has collaborated with the cartoon magazine to bring the colors and the laughs of Bali. Again in their words, "laughing can cause severe symptoms of acute euphoria, please contact your nearest caricaturist at 100 Sunset Boutique Hotel every Saturday for a cure especially for you - being your own caricature."

100 Sunset, Jl. Sunset Road No. 100, Kuta,
(0361) 847-7360; www.100sunset.com

SPIRITS AND LINES

Ganesha Gallery presents an exhibition of art by artists Made Kaek and Edy Able titled *Spirits and Lines*, and is held through April 4. In this dual exhibition the artists display their fascination for the world of shadows resorting to palettes limited largely to black, white and gold. Kaek's world is populated with strange beasts and leering humanoids. In comparison the canvasses of Edy Able are more refined. The lines are delicate and a close examination reveals endless detail. In "Uniting the Process" (penyatuan proses) he combines not only paper and canvas but also wood carving thus united sculpture and painting. Unlike most of his work the central field of this work is a large oval not unlike the womb or coco de mer once worshipped as a manifestation of the goddess. The art of both is notable for its graphic appeal, certainly the result of their use of line and black and white. Colors here function as splashes to momentarily grab attention. Kaek who is a member of the Sanggar Dewata, one of Bali's most prestigious artist groups, is well known on the scene. In comparison Edy Able is an autodidact from Mojokerto, East Java who only began exhibiting for the first time in 2008 at the age of 38.

Ganesha Gallery, Four Seasons Resorts Bali at Jimbaran Bay
(0361) 701-010; www.fourseasons.com



TURN THE TURNTABLES

The Australian Ceramics Association is coordinating the Gaya Ceramics workshops in 2011, from March 13 to 26 at the Gaya Ceramic Arts Center in Ubud. In a setting of unsurpassed tropical beauty and a culture renowned for exquisitely refined craftsmanship, Bali could not possibly offer more in the way of visual stimulation and tactile inspiration for the creative ceramicist. This course will encourage participants to engage with their surroundings and find ways to allow this inspired setting to influence their work. After visiting a wide range of the finest craft experts – from batik artists to ikat-weavers, wood-carvers to silversmiths, and more – participants will develop individual projects with possibilities ranging from hand-building to wheel-throwing. Each person will receive instruction and assistance in manifesting his/her ideas, in addition to many surface, design and construction demonstrations. This workshop is instructed by Hillary Kane, and is suitable for all levels at US\$2200. www.gayafusion.com/ceramic

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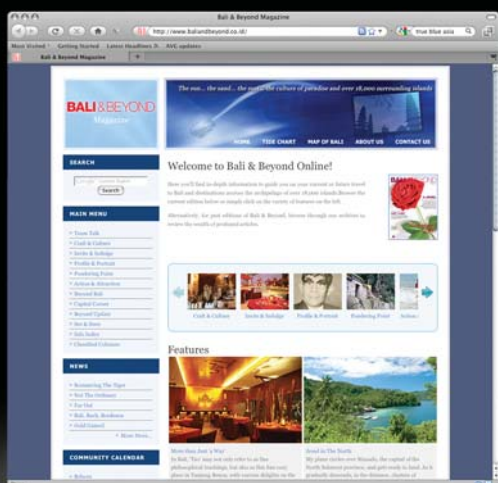


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OFF PODIUM

Thousands of MotoGP fans and motorcycle enthusiasts on the island had the chance to meet Moto GP 2010 Champion Jorge Lorenzo, at the mega-indoor stage of the Bali Theatre of the Bali Safari & Marine Park. Lorenzo appeared center stage after the spectacular Bali Agung performance. Lorenzo greeted his fans in Balinese with a thick Spanish accent, and was then accompanied by two representatives of his team factory in an exclusive dinner with 99 selected fans at the park's Tsavo Lion Restaurant. After dinner, Lorenzo met up with Tsunami, a 6 year old Orang Utan at the park. **Bali Safari & Marine Park**
Jl. Bypass I.B. Mantra Km. 19.8, Gianyar, (0361) 950-000
www.balisafarimarinepark.com



ROCKIN' LOVE

Hard Rock Hotel Bali celebrated Valentine's Day in "rockin' style", with a L.O.V.E Party at Centerstage in February. Centerstage was decorated in red flowers and heart shaped balloons. The Sober Band started warming the crowd of more than 300 people, followed by fashion shows by Luna Collection and giveaways.

Hard Rock Hotel Bali, Jalan Pantai, Banjar Pande Mas, Kuta
(0361) 761-869; www.hardrockhotels.net

SMILE, GROWL

General Manager of Novotel Bali Nusa Dua Hotel & Residences, Mr. Thierry Gasnier welcomed and held the fierce but sexy Grace, a baby leopard, during her visit to Novotel Bali Nusa Dua, February 10-12. The four month-old baby leopard also came together with an owl and a python - all part of the family at the Bali Safari Marine & Park.

Novotel Bali Nusa Dua, Nusa Dua,
(0361) 8480-555
www.novotelnusaduabali.com



WEEKEND OF FASHION

Karma Kandara Resort and Spa hosted a glamorous 'Fashion Weekend' of new collections, cocktails, celebrity DJs and world-class cuisine, February 11-13. Head designer Alvin Fernandez and accessory designer Annmarie McGinn were 'artists in residence' premiering their latest 'Karma Cruise Collection' styled especially for Karma Resorts. The collection is inspired by the jet set lifestyle where women love bold colors and clashing textures as well as mixing happily floral, animal and geometric prints. Their latest creations were accessorized with elegant Australian South Sea pearl jewelry by renowned brand Kailis. **Karma Kandara Resort, Jalan Villa Kandara, Banjar Wijaya Kusuma, Ungasan,** (0361) 848-2200
www.karmakandara.com





LIVE N' ACOUSTIC

Duncan Sheik featuring Rachael Yamagata were on their Indonesia Tour, stopping over at Hard Rock Cafe Bali on February 12. An American singer-songwriter and composer best known for his 1996 hit "balrey Breathing", Duncan Sheik performed live and acoustic at Hard Rock Cafe Bali coinciding on Valentine's weekend. Japanese American singer-songwriter and pianist, Rachael Yamagata, performed thirty minutes with her 6 hit songs. **Hard Rock Cafe Bali, Jl. Pantai Kuta, Banjar Pande Mas, Kuta, (0361) 755-661**



GUSTS, GUESTS, GATHER

The Breezes Bali Resort & Spa recently invited members of the press for a gathering and cocktail party, which was also intended to introduce the resort's new developmental updates and programs. The Breezes has reemerged following recent refurbishments and brandishing its current new name. Previously known as the Contiki, the resort's facilities provide everything that the modern traveler and family expects on their vacation.

The Breezes Bali Resort & Spa, Jl. Camplung Tanduk 66, Seminyak, (0361) 730-573; www.thebreezesbali.com



REAL DAY OUT

Rumah Desa hosted members of the island's tourism media for a day out in the rural countryside of Marga, Tabanan. The cooking class and tour features invites guests to the island to not only go for a holiday but also for a real experience, exploring a 'real side' of Bali. Participants enjoyed insights on original Balinese dishes, cakes, coffee, oil, sugar, rice wine, spice paste, etc., through the cooking class, and spent some time in the rice fields to plow the mud with the aid of a real pair of buffalos. **Rumah Desa, Banjar Baru, Desa Baru, Marga, Tabanan, (0361) 790-7071; www.rumahdesa.com**



LOVE GIVEN, BLOOD TOO!

Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel in collaboration with Korem Wirasatya and Indonesian Red Cross conducted a Blood Donation day on February 12. It successfully collected 250 bags of blood from enthusiastic participants. The program was set to encourage the community to share and pay more attention to those in need, which is in line with Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel's Corporate Social Responsibility Program vision of "affection to others".

**Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel & Villas
Jl. Kartika Plaza, South Kuta, (0361) 751-067**

PURIFIED, READY

As part of its opening ritual, The 101 Legian conducted a Maspas ceremony in mid-February for the completion of the construction project, as well as to signify the start of the hotel's operations. As part of the new hotel's commitment in blending to the local culture of Bali, The 101 Legian carried out the purification ceremony prior to its official soft opening which is slated for April. The hotel management invited members of the media, local officials, as well as introducing to the invitees members of the management and key staff. Also present were the shareholders of the property who each handed in their introductory speeches to the guests.

The 101 Legian, Jl. Raya Legian no.117, (0361) 763-101; www.the101bali.com





SKAL INTERNATIONAL BALI

An International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals

Doing Business Among Friends

EAT, MEET, PLAY AND STAY - PAN PACIFIC NIRWANA BALI STYLE

Seventy members and guests enjoyed a relaxed yet productive Friday February 11 in the beautiful grounds of the Pan Pacific Nirwana Bali Resort at Tanah Lot. The Skal Bali Annual General Meeting preceded a relaxed and delicious lunch of Amuse Bouche Greek Salad, Vodka Salmon Tartar, Spices Coated Sea Bass and Mango Tatin. Our golfers enjoyed the award winning championship course while others stayed on to enjoy a fine finish to the day. John Berndt and his team handled every detail superbly. It was a perfect day in paradise.

SKAL BALI'S 145 MEMBERS MEET MONTHLY AT THE BEST VENUES. SET FOR 2011 ARE:

March 11, The Laguna Resort & Spa – Nusa Dua

April 1, Sanur beach – Sanur

May 6, Family and Friends eve – Hard Rock Hotel – Kuta

June 10, Queens' Tandoor – Kuta

July 1, Courtyard by Marriot Bali – Nusa Dua

August 5, Sanur Paradise Plaza – Sanur

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Skal Bali, Southeast Asia's largest Skal Club, leader in growth worldwide

Membership and Information - contact our Secretariat Manager Gede Juwena
Telephone: 7840212, email: gede@skalbali.com

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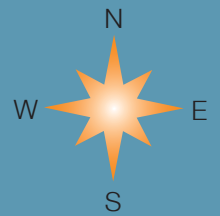
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www.baliorchidgardens.com
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BaliQuad, Jl. Wirasatya VI No.9X, Suwung Kangin, Denpasar
Tel: 720-766; Fax: 727-956
www.baliquad.com; www.balibuggy.com

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HEALTH & MEDICAL

Call an ambulance by dialing 118, but it is a lot more practical and quicker to hire a taxi. Most hotels have on-call doctors on standby. For \$Bali Belly, Lomotil and Imodium eliminate symptoms, but not gastro-related infections. A fever along with symptoms requires doctor-prescribed antibiotics.

Drink as much liquid as possible. Isotonic drinks under various brand names are widely available and are known to replenish body hydration and replace fluids. For discomfort, diarrhea and cramping, drink strong, hot tea; avoid fruits and spicy foods.

Some day-biting mosquitoes carry dengue fever, but this is not a problem in tourist areas. Bali is non-malarial and prophylaxis is not required. Mosquito bites, cuts or abrasions easily become infected in the tropics. Treat them immediately.

Drink only bottled or boiled water. Peel fruit before eating; avoid raw vegetables except at reputable restaurants. Ice in restaurants is safe. Protect yourself from the intense equatorial sun. Use high SPF sunblock and a hat.

AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are increasing in Indonesia. Local sex workers have multiple partners from around the world. They are not checked for sexually transmitted diseases. Act responsibly and use condoms, available over the counter at pharmacies.



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■ **ANTONIO BLANCO:** Tel: (0361) 975-502,
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■ **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM:**
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TOURIST INFO.

■ **INTEGRATED TOURISM INFORMATION CENTER (ITIC)**
A one-stop tourist information complex of ten provinces in Indonesia comprising Bali, Lampung, Jakarta, Banten, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Jogjakarta. Jl. Raya Kuta 2, Kuta, 80361; Tel: (0361) 766-188

■ **NGURAH RAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:** Tel: (0361) 751-011

■ **BADUNG GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE:** Jl. Kuta Raya 2, Kuta
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■ **BALI GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE:**
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■ **SINGARAJA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE:** Jl. Veteran 23, Singaraja
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